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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
31 July 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Rapallo Treaty

1. The Rapallo Treaty of 16 April 1922 between Russia and Germany provided for the mutual renunciation of all pre-war debts and war claims and for the resumption of diplomatic and consular relations. It contained no secret clauses and did not represent anything in the nature of an alliance.

2. The treaty was signed during the Genoa conference which had been called to discuss problems of European post-war reconstruction and German reparations and war debts. It represented the first great victory of Soviet diplomacy in that it split the Western community in its relation to Russia and achieved the first de jure recognition of the Soviet regime by a major Western power.

3. A primary objective of Soviet policy in this period was to keep Germany out of an anti-Soviet combination of European powers. This treaty, which brought together the two outcasts of post-World War I Europe, marked the first major success of the tactical line laid down by Lenin in late 1920--a line which bears an interesting parallel with some of Khrushchev's recent utterances: "We must be clever enough to utilize the contradictions and oppositions among the imperialist...so as to make agreement between them difficult or, so far as we can, make it temporarily impossible." Lenin forecast that the Versailles Treaty would push Germany into an alliance with Russia: "The German bourgeois government madly hates the Bolsheviks, but the interests of the international situation are pushing it towards peace with Russia against its own will."

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